

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

- Through the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP), FNS is able to quickly offer **short-term food assistance benefits to families suffering in the wake of a disaster**.
- Eligible **households receive one month of benefits**, equivalent to the maximum amount of benefits normally issued to a SNAP household of their size. Benefits are **issued via an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card**, which can be used to purchase food at most grocery stores.
- Through D-SNAP, **affected households use a simplified application. D-SNAP benefits are issued to eligible applicants within 72 hours**, speeding assistance to disaster victims and reducing the administrative burden on State agencies operating in post-disaster conditions.
- **Households not normally eligible for SNAP may qualify** for D-SNAP as a result of their disaster-related expenses, such as loss of income, damage to property, relocation expenses, and, in some cases, loss of food due to power outages.
- When States operate a D-SNAP, ongoing SNAP clients can also receive disaster food assistance. **Households with disaster losses whose SNAP benefits are less than the monthly maximum can request a supplement**. The supplement brings their benefits up to the maximum for the household size. This provides equity between D-SNAP households and SNAP households receiving disaster assistance.
- FNS approves D-SNAP operations in an affected area under the authority of the **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act** when the area has received a Presidential disaster declaration of Individual Assistance (IA) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- State agencies request FNS approval to operate a D-SNAP within the disaster area. **FNS approves program operations** for a limited period of time (typically 7 days) during which the State agency may accept D-SNAP applications.